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An “Upper Class” Swedish Immigrant from the 1860s

Robert Murray*

There are many examples of “upper class” immigrants from Sweden who fell on evil days in the new land. They often lacked the capacity to adjust to new and strange situations and often did not possess the correct information concerning working conditions. But there were also those for whom the transplanting succeeded and who, thanks to the special skills they had learned in their youth, were able to rise above the masses and establish themselves at the top. One of those was Carl Edvard Billqvist, a young man from Göteborg, born 21 July 1846; died 12 May 1922, the author of three letters reproduced here.

During the years of his early manhood he was a friend of another young man of his own age, Robert Murray, born 2 June 1846; died 2 Aug. 1932, who happens to be my paternal grandfather. After the latter's death I found among his papers no less than 41 letters from Billqvist to my grandfather straddling the years 1862-1870 as well as one from 1879. Most of these letters date from 1862 to 1866, when the young Billqvist had been dispatched into the world by his father, Carl Emil Billqvist (1817-1895), a wealthy merchant in Göteborg, in order to study, among other things, languages and merchandising. Included in this program was a stint in the prestigious commercial school in Rostock, Germany. In contrast to Billqvist, my grandfather as well as his brother, George Murray (1844-1911), who later became president of the Vulcan Match Co., grew up under very strained economic conditions. Their mother, a widow, had to assume the entire burden of providing for her family. (I have earlier, in an article published in *The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*, now *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, attempted to tell the story of her husband, Carl Adolf Murray (1785-1847), United States consul in Göteborg)¹. It was thanks to a modest sum paid out annually by the very original and wealthy merchant in Göteborg, Edvard Dickson, to my grandfather, that he had been able to enter the University of Uppsala in the fall of 1866 in order to begin his medical studies.

At about the same time that Billqvist returned to Sweden, the frequency of the letters between the friends increased and it was during the greater part of that year that the letters between Billqvist and my grandfather became the substitute for a personal companionship. This situation, however, in no way hampered the development of a very close relationship between the two youths. My grandfather tells in a series of reminiscences from his old age that the arrival of each letter had

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given him considerable pleasure, whether he was in Uppsala or Göteborg. In these letters they discussed not only their work as well as pleasures, but they also touched upon more profound and philosophical topics. Billqvist was prone to be speculative and could in his letters discuss Goethe's *Dr. Faustus*, Renan, the French philosopher, Longfellow, the American poet and the Swedish poet, Esaias Tegnér. The two friends discussed "the value of prayer" (the efficacy of which Billqvist doubted) as well as whether the mind or emotion was the most important element in "one's religious life."

It is obvious that Billqvist during his foreign journeys did not have to count his pennies. Once he was assigned the task of leaving Bristol in England in order to escort his sister home to Sweden after she had spent some time at a Swiss pension. At about the same time he wrote to his friend Robert, telling him how he envied him in Göteborg, where on many occasions he was meeting the rising vocal star, Christina Nilsson,² who at this time was staying with the Koch³ family in Göteborg, the family which had supported her in her musical studies. It was at the summer cottage at Särö, outside of Göteborg, where Robert Murray often stayed as guest and tutor. Billqvist, who after having received a letter from his friend, answers him by admonishing Murray not to get "too close to the fire" with clear reference to Christina Nilsson's ability to set the hearts of young men aflame. Billqvist, himself, had made a special journey to Paris in order to hear Christina Nilsson in Mozart's opera, "The Magic Flute."⁴

After Billqvist returned to Göteborg he entered the employ in his father's wholesale firm, but continued to write to his friend, telling of his daily life, his business travels and his pleasures in the company of mutual friends. Nine of these friends, which included some of the names of the most prominent Göteborg families, such as Lagerberg⁵, Gumpert⁶, Keiller⁷ and Gibson⁸, had formed a society for mutual enjoyment and serious discussion. This group also included Robert's younger brother George. On another occasion Billqvist related how he had become interested in public affairs and had even become a member of the Göteborg Workers' League.

Then catastrophe suddenly struck. Billqvist's father, a well-known figure in the mercantile life of Göteborg, who had occupied many positions of public trust, was forced into bankruptcy in the early months of 1869. His son was thereby forced to stand on his own feet, but as he wrote to his friend, "I have never been particularly clever at making money, but now I shall be forced to do so." In this situation the thought occurred to him that he should, as so many other Swedes had done, look in the direction of the country of the future - America.

He had actually thought of this possibility earlier, although those plans had been rather nebulous, without much depth. Now he informed his friends and, obviously, his family that he had made up his mind and that this decision was irrevocable. In his reminiscences my grandfather related how he suddenly got the idea through his brother George, who was employed by Edvard Dickson⁹, to ask the latter, if he would provide their mutual friend a letter of recommendation for his

journey in order to ease the problem of finding employment in the new land. Dickson had a conversation with Billqvist and was impressed. Dickson sat down and wrote a letter of recommendation to the well respected firm of Grinnell, Minturn & Co.¹⁰ in New York, with which he was well acquainted. This New York firm had begun by specializing in the trading of whale oil, but had later expanded into other commodities.

This account of events is buttressed by Billqvist in the second of the letters referred to below. Armed thus with the document from Dickson, Billqvist departed from Göteborg 12 Sept. 1869.

The crossing of the ocean is described in the first of these letters. Billqvist apparently did not avail himself of the usual method chosen by the hordes of emigrants who left for U.S., i.e. by large steam vessels. It was only from Boston, during his continuing travel to New York, his final destination, that he made use of a vessel propelled by steam, a method of transportation he often had used during his travels in Europe and Sweden. His first journey to America was literally a "sail," a crossing done via a sailing vessel.

He reached the American continent after a journey which had taken him ten days to cross the North Sea due to contrary head winds. The Atlantic crossing consumed 45 days, which included three different storm systems. Except for these, the crossing seems to have been a pleasant one and Billqvist's spirits were of the highest order. After a few days of recuperation in Boston, Billqvist continued on to New York, which was to be his home city for the remainder of his life. The journey from Göteborg to Boston and on to New York and his impressions of his first days in the latter city are registered in two of the letters cited below:

"New York 9 Nov. 1869

My Dear Robert!

Even though I embarked on a Saturday, as you well know, the vessel did not sail until Sunday, 12 Sept., at 8 o'clock in the morning. Already that afternoon we passed the lighthouse at Skagen and proceeded out into the North Sea, where contrary head winds kept us for almost two weeks, after which we finally were able to continue north of the Shetland Islands and then set course for Boston. We finally arrived at our destination, after travelling for 45 days and encountering three storms, of which none was particularly severe. I never had the opportunity to consider the trip tedious, since the time was occupied by reading, conversation and by studying and participating in the navigation of the vessel. Thus the days passed quickly and as we neared the American coast I almost wished that the journey would not end—that is how accustomed I had become to life on board. Regularly at 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. every day the captain and I took a whiskey, a cognac or a rum drink, always served in a drinking glass.

I stayed in Boston, a rather pleasant city, only a couple of days and then came here via a steamship, the most elegant one could ever imagine. Four stories tall, lounge areas furnished luxuriously with every possible comfort, crystal chandeliers lighted with gas everywhere, concerts the entire afternoon, walking about the deck, conversations with fellow passengers by the hundred and a cabin, more comfortable than many a hotel ashore, something which our Swedish steamships have no reason to be proud of.

Already on the third day of my stay here I moved to a private boarding house, where for \$10.00 per week I have it quite good. Although we, who dwell in the same house, conduct our lives in family style, we do not always sit down for meals at the same time, some a few minutes early, others a few minutes late. One arises from the table when it suits one, or as soon as one has finished his meal. In the beginning I found this custom so at variance with our own, to be very bothersome, but I have to admit that it has its merits if one is in a hurry or is seated with a tedious table companion.

So far, of course, I have not found any employment, but I wish and hope, nevertheless, that I don't have to wait too long without something to do, since this state of affairs is quite unpleasant. It is true, that I have books to read and the city has many new things to offer me, as well as many opportunities for study and contemplation. But I do not have the patience to make use of these since the thought that I soon must find employment puts a damper on any activity which does not bring me an income. I believe, moreover, that I shall adjust rather well here as soon as I have found a steady job.

I can, obviously, not as yet give you my reactions to people and conditions here, although the Americans seem to be more friendly, courteous and generous, than we usually consider them. The Americanized Germans, however, of which there are countless hordes, seem to be rather discourteous and nasty, even though they doubtless are clever merchants. Their German newspapers are full of braggadocio and speak of the "German spirit" and other foolishness.

Here the construction of buildings is done in a surprising and most daring manner—entire structures of steel and iron. I am sure that these houses are useful and sturdy, but they seem to me to have a great flaw—they seem to me to be weak. They appear as if they would collapse at the least vibration of the street traffic. To me it therefore seems that this illusory weakness lends an ugly appearance to the structures.

I find no more room in this letter than my address - C(arl) E(dvard) B(illqvist), Esq., c/o Messrs. Frykberg¹¹ & Co., P.O. Box 2412, New York. Write soon so that I might get a letter before the end of the year.

Your friend
C.Edv.B."

—oOo—

"New York 18 Jan. 1870

My Dear Robert!

About two months ago, soon after my arrival here, I wrote you and I hope that my letter reached you. Through George (Murray) you have probably been informed of my new address - Grinnell, Minturn & Co., 78 South Street. I was quite fortunate that after a half day's stay here, to find employment with the above-mentioned firm, to which your brother had secured a letter from Mr. Edvard Dickson. Thus I can say, in addition to the warm attachment I have for you both (you and George), also thank you for your good influence you have exerted on me through your time and other efforts, as well as to thank a Murray for making it possible for me to earn my living here in a pleasant way.

The firm of Grinnell, Minturn & Co. is one of the oldest, most prestigious and respected businesses here, so that the mere opportunity of being in their employ carries with it an aura of respect. My income is still quite modest and does not allow anything else but a quiet and sober existence. Even so, I have not allowed myself to escape social life entirely, but have been introduced to a little more than a score of families, perhaps more than you know in Uppsala. I have been accepted everywhere with friendliness and generosity—which is typically the case with strangers all over the world, if they don't appear to be too slovenly. In addition, I have not neglected to notice that I am superior to most Americans when it comes to education and social acceptability. The ladies appear to emphasize this fact. I shall attempt not to become too vain and thus explode from self-approbation.

As soon as Americans have accepted a European as good enough to be admitted into their family life they are quite proud to have him as their guest. The other evening I had a difficult time remaining serious, that's how humorous the attention was that was bestowed on me. One of my colleagues in the office asked me to attend a reception given by his family. At 9 o'clock in the evening I went there, gave my name to the Negro manning the door, whereupon I was warmly received by the brother and two sisters (my colleague had not as yet had time to change his clothes). The youngest of the two girls (for your information she was too coquettish to appeal to me) took my arm and promenaded me through the length of the salon and introduced me to her mother and a few other persons, after which she led me back and forth in the room. It was quite apparent that she wished to show me off to her guests and thus the episode struck me so comical, that as I said earlier, I had great difficulty in keeping my composure. The evening, however, was quite pleasant.

You have probably read one or more descriptions of how New Year's Day is celebrated in New York, so that I shall not say anything else but only relate that I began my visits at 11 o'clock in the morning, drank

Swedish punsch at the Consul's¹², was escorted by an acquaintance to a number of places and did not cease my wanderings until 9:30 that evening.

Some time ago, a young man, with whom I share a room, received an invitation to a ball, which he did not wish to attend, and instead wrote a letter to the host regretting the invitation. The evening of the affair we both went out for a walk when my friend noticed that the letter had not been mailed. "Give me the letter and show me the house, so I can deliver the message," I told him. Said and done. He followed me to the door and I told him not to wait for me since I might stay. I rang the bell and came into a foyer, where I saw several men dressed for the ball. When I mentioned that I had a letter for Mr. N---, the latter stepped forward, whom I did not know, of course, took the envelope, whereupon I mentioned that my friend (the usual expression here) had forgotten to mail the message and that I had volunteered to deliver it. A few words (the usual courtesies) were exchanged between us, when he suddenly asked me to remain and to participate in the dance, to which invitation I immediately reacted positively. When he again asked me to remain, I accepted and he then followed me to the dressing room, gave my name and introduced me as his friend Mr. B. It was quite comical to attend a ball where I did not know a single soul!

I don't know if these garbled lines convey to you a feeling for how I spend my time on non-business affairs or how I while away my evenings.

Between 9 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening I spend the time at the office and return to my room quite exhausted. If I can retain my health, I shall, after two or three decades, become a wealthy man, but probably also totally and completely with my health gone, unable to enjoy happiness or my money. I recently visited a Mr. Åhman, a brother of Mrs. Hitchens¹³ in Göteborg, who for a long time had been a partner in the firm, where I am employed. He is certainly a wealthy man, but ailing, cannot go out, resides here in a hotel, is a bachelor, and from what I can see a burden to himself. He has no one to whom to will his money, no one to care for, and cannot even participate in the political or civic associations. It is really sad! What if I meet the same fate? Now I have something to work for—my family. But who knows what use they can have of my money which I shall have amassed in the next quarter of a century? My only chance to be saved from a feeling of indifference to life is to attempt to have an income in a few years, large enough to enable me to get married to a girl, one who herself has money—obviously not only for her money. But this possibility seems quite remote, since I see no way at the present time of falling in love. There is more beauty here than in any other place in the world and yet the women here do not interest me seriously. Except for a passing amatory episode they leave me totally indifferent. Now you must think that I am a real Jeremiah.

It would be fun to hear from you. How are you doing in your studies? How are the old friends doing—such as I. Andrén¹⁴, the Brusewitz boys¹⁵, etc. You must write soon, since it is now four months since I saw you last or heard from you.

Have you visited Stockholm yet and seen August¹⁶ or Edvard? Greet them from me when you have the opportunity. I hope that both of them are advancing in their careers.

By this time you have heard enough, therefore until I write next

Your affectionate friend

C. Edvard"

At a distance the friend back in Sweden followed the career of Billqvist in the U.S., even if the correspondence, as so often happens in such instances, soon stopped. The years of youth were gone and each of them had his hands full on both sides of the ocean. The distance and the everyday cares separated them. In his reminiscences Murray relates—from which source we do not know—that the firm in which Billqvist was employed, had a very good name and it was no easy task to be accepted into the company. An older member of the Grinnell family, according to the same source, became a member of the U.S. Congress. When a bill was introduced to send out an expedition, financed by public funds, to search for the vessel of the disappeared Arctic explorer, John Franklin¹⁷, the views were split. Grinnell¹⁸ asked for the floor and explained that it was shameful for the nation to even discuss such a matter and added that if the funds were not voted he stood ready to pay for the rescue mission himself.

This he did, with the result that the Grinnell name can be found on many places on the Arctic map. The same source gives a detailed sketch of the thorough manner in which the then owner, Mr. Grinnell, checked the background and abilities of the unknown young man, who without a prior appointment appeared in his office with a letter of recommendation from Mr. Dickson in Sweden. The young man proved his mettle during the trial period of employment and was then accepted as a member of the firm. From there he advanced through the ranks, ultimately to become its chief.

When Dr. Mauritz Salin (1851-1927)¹⁹, a friend and colleague of Dr. Robert Murray, undertook a study tour of America 1879, he carried with him a letter from Murray, which was to be hand carried to Billqvist. Though the two gentlemen failed to meet, Billqvist received the letter, which then resulted in an answer, the last in the Billqvist collection.

"78 South Street, New York

11 Dec. 1879

My Dear Robert!

It is now nearly a year since Dr. Sahlin (sic!) brought me your very welcome letter, for which together with the enclosed photographs I wish to

thank you most heartily. Both of the pictures have been combined into a frame which stands on a little table in my library. Many and pleasant are the memories which they suggest. It was very gracious of you to send them.

I could not ask Dr. Sahlin to my home immediately after his arrival inasmuch as my father-in-law lay on his death-bed and died a few days later. Because of the death of the old man, I had to journey to Boston, and my wife was not in the mood, obviously, to invite anyone to our home. I tried, however, in vain to reach Dr. Sahlin. The first time he was not in and the second time he had moved, and it was thus impossible for me to find him. I had hoped for a long time that he would let me know where he was staying and I am genuinely sorry that I have been unable to show your friend hospitality, or to be at his service.

I now live in South Orange, NJ, about 15 miles from New York or about 50 minutes by train from the city. I have probably become very much Americanized and am afraid I would feel very much a stranger if I were to return to Sweden—my native language seldom crosses my lips. When and if I will return to my childhood home is uncertain, since this is the land of work, and one cannot cease one's grip if one is to succeed. You mention John Kjellberg²⁰ as the only one from our youth whom you see in Stockholm—what then has happened to August Koch²¹? My wife greets you and hopes to meet you some time in the future and I send you my warmest greeting to you and Marie.

Your friend C.E. Billqvist"

The letter shows that the old friendly feelings had withstood the test of time and distance. The two friends from their youth were now married. Murray sent Billqvist his and his wife's portraits, which Billqvist placed in a place of honor in his American home.

It should be noted that a brother of Marie Murray, Robert's wife, whose maiden name was Andrén, had been at one time a member of the Nine Men Club in Göteborg.

One more time the two old friends were to meet again, now for the last time. It is not known when, but during a visit to Sweden, Billqvist also visited Lysekil, a city on Sweden's west coast, where Murray was the physician during the summer at the public baths. The latter makes the following comment in his reminiscences:

"I found him to be the same, both as to his appearance, as well as his personality and I was very pleased that he visited me and I would have done more for him, if he had not been accompanied by his American wife, for whom I felt that he was much too good. He probably saw it from a different point of view, which I sincerely hope."

The statement is an emotional and perhaps an exaggerated analysis of how much his friend from an earlier time meant to him.

I do not know very much concerning C.E. Billqvist's later years. Dare one

hope that he tore himself away from his many duties and that he was a member of that enthusiastic audience which breathlessly listened to the concert by the idol of his youth—Christina Nilsson when she appeared in New York?

According to an obituary to be found in the Erland Långström Genealogical Collection at the District Archives in Göteborg Billqvist died in New York 12 May 1922. He was survived by his widow but had no children. A news item in *Göteborgs Posten* verifies the information that he had been in the employ of Grinnell, Minturn & Co. Later the name of the firm was changed to Barclay, Hagard & Co., in which company Billqvist soon became a partner and later and until his death its chief executive officer. The news item characterizes him as a "sensitive and highly cultured individual, much appreciated by his colleagues and friends." He also seems to have been a frequent reviewer of literature in his field.

According to information in the Långström Collection his stepmother and some of his siblings were alive at the time of Billqvist's death. The father, who at the time of the son's departure for America, was widower, had remarried and had in both of his marriages a number of children. He also seems to have dropped many of his civic responsibilities in connection with his financial debacle, which was primarily the reason for his son's departure for America. A younger half-brother, Torsten Einar Billqvist, seems to have become an architect in Pittsburgh, PA.

A closer examination of sources on both sides of the Atlantic would probably yield additional material to illustrate the adventures and experiences of the young Swedish American emigrant, but for the present time these notes will suffice. Perhaps somewhere there is a living relative (descendants of his many siblings) who can furnish further information in order to fill out the picture of Carl Edvard Billqvist, the young emigrant of 1869.

Notes

¹Robert Murray, "Carl Adolf Murray, American Consul in Göteborg" in *The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, Jan. 1967, pp. 3-12.

²Christina Nilsson, the famed Swedish singer was b. in Vederlöf Parish (Kron.) 20 Aug. 1843 and d. in Växjö 22 Nov. 1921. - *Svenska män och kvinnor* I-VIII (Stockholm 1942-1955), V, p. 447.

³Edward Wilhelm Koch (1805-1871). His father, Hans Christian Koch, had established a lucrative wine business in Göteborg. Eduard Koch was m. to Louise Petersen (1817-1891). Their granddaughter, Elsa Koch, became the wife of George Murray, Robert's brother. Franzén's statement that it was Eduard Koch's son, Charles Rudolph Koch, who became Christina Nilsson's sponsor in Göteborg and Paris is in error. Robert was only five years older than Christina and Franzén even gives Charles Rudolph's age as 56, which was exactly the age of his father when he assumed responsibility for Christina Nilsson's voice training. - Gustaf Elgenstierna, *Svenska släktkalendern*, Vol. XIII 1943 (Stockholm 1942), p. 552; Nils Olof Franzén, *Christina Nilsson* (Stockholm 1976), p. 55.

⁴Christina Nilsson sang the role of Queen of the Night in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris in 1865. - *Svenska män och kvinnor*, V, p. 447.

⁵Magnus Lagerberg (1844-1920) arr. in Göteborg 1862 and served as curator of the numismatic collection of the Göteborg Museum until 1887. - *Svenskt biografiskt lexikon*, fascicle No. 106 (Stockholm 1977), pp. 45-46; Magnus Lagerberg, *Göteborgare* I-II (Göteborg 1913), pp. 82-83.

⁶One of the leading bookdealers in Göteborg in the middle of the 1850s was N.J. Gumpert, an immigrant from Denmark. A Morris Jacob Gumpert, b. in Göteborg in 1844 may have been his son. - Karl Otto Bonnier, *Bonniers, en bokhandlarefamilj* I-IV (Stockholm 1930-1931), II, p. 23; Albin Hildebrand (Ed.), *Svenskt Porträttgalleri, Generalregister* (Stockholm 1913), p. 258.

⁷Probably one of three sons of a Scotsman, Alexander Keiller, who had immigrated to Sweden 1825 and had founded Göteborg Mekaniska Verkstad in 1841. - *Elgenstierna*, Vol. XIII, p. 517.

- ⁸Probably one of four sons of another Scotsman, William Gibson, who arr. in Göteborg 1797 and established himself as a wholesale merchant in that city. - *Elgenstierna*, Vol. I (Stockholm 1911), p. 295.
- ⁹Edvard Dickson (1812-1883) was the son of yet another Scotsman, Robert Dickson, who had emigr. to Sweden in 1802. Edvard Dickson arr. in the U.S. in the early 1830s and stayed here for about ten years. After his marriage in Scotland in 1843 he returned to New York, where he remained for three years, returning to Göteborg in 1846. It is probable that during his stay in New York, handling the shipping business of his father, that he became acquainted with the owners of Grinnell, Minturn & Co. His letter of recommendation for Carl Edvard Billqvist to Grinnell, Minturn & Co., must therefore have played a key role in Billqvist's landing a job with this prestigious firm. - Lagerberg, *Göteborgare*, I, p. 137; Karl A. Kson. Leijonhufvud, *Ny svensk släktbok* (Stockholm 1906), p. 103.
- ¹⁰The firm was founded in 1832 by Henry Grinnell (1799-1874) and his brother-in-law Robert B. Minturn (1805-1866). - *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. VII, p. 32.
- ¹¹The Frykberg connection is unidentified.
- ¹²The Swedish consul at this time in New York was Carl Edward Habicht, who served from 10 June 1859 to 11 Nov. 1870. Joh. Ax. Almquist, *Kommerskollegium och Rikens Ständers manufakturkontor samt Konsulstaten* (Stockholm 1912-1915), p. 347.
- ¹³Mrs. Clara Hichens (sic!) was m. to Robert Hichens (1812-1892), the son of still another Scotsman, Benjamin Carbis Hichens, who had emigr. to Göteborg. Mrs. Hichens was born Åhman, the daughter of a jeweler in Göteborg by the name of Åhman. The identity of her brother in New York has not been established. - Lagerberg, *Göteborgare*, I, pp. 128-130.
- ¹⁴Josef Henrik Andrén (1847-1933) was the brother of Maria (Marie) Elisabeth Antoinette Andrén, who m. Robert Murray 1877. He served in the Swedish *Riksdag*. - (V. Örnberg), *Svensk släktkalender & Svenska ättar 1-XIV* (Stockholm 1884-1908), IV, p. 17.
- ¹⁵When Billqvist asks about "the Brusewitz boys" he could have had in mind any of the three groups of sibling brothers, all cousins, born in Göteborg. They belonged to one of the oldest and most respectable families in Göteborg. - *Elgenstierna*, Vol. I, pp. 151-153.
- ¹⁶Both August and Edvard are unidentified.
- ¹⁷Sir John Franklin (1786-1847), who on 19 May 1845 set out to discover the Northwest Passage. He was last seen 25 July. It was to be 14 years before the mystery was solved. - *Encyclopedia Britannica*.
- ¹⁸There were three brothers Grinnell - Henry, who founded the firm and helped finance the expedition to rescue Franklin; Joseph, a U.S. congressman from Massachusetts and Moses, also a congressman, who helped his brother Henry finance the expedition. The objective was not achieved, but land discovered beyond Davis Strait and Baffin Bay was named Grinnell Land. - *DAB*, Vol. VIII, p. 2.
- ¹⁹Mauritz Johan Salin (1851-1927) was a famous Swedish gynecologist and specialist in obstetrics who was an outstanding professor at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. - A. Widstrand (Ed.), *Sveriges läkarehistoria 1-V* (Stockholm 1930-1935), IV, p. 285.
- ²⁰Probably Jonas Kjellberg (1850-1921), a member of a prominent Göteborg family. - *Elgenstierna*, Vol. XIII, p. 526.
- ²¹August Wilhelm Koch (1848-1911), merchant in Göteborg, was the uncle of Elsa Murray, sister-in-law of Robert Murray. - *Elgenstierna*, Vol. XIII, p. 552.

A Swedish Bible Inscription

The American Swedish Institute's Bible collection contains many items of genealogical interest. One of these is a Swedish Psalmbook, printed in Linköping 1764 by the widow of Gabriel Björkegren, a printer in that city. It has the following inscription on the inside of the front cover:

"Margareta Rydström, née Bergström, is the owner of this book, given her by her mother-in-law, Christina Larsdotter, 4 Feb. 1787."

Margareta Bergström was probably the daughter of Magnus Andersson Bergström at Mörtfors, Hjorted Parish (Kalm.) and his wife, Charlotta Ernstsdotter Cratz. The three brothers changed their surname to Bergenström, the name Axel Setterdahl uses in his work *Östgöta nation i Lund* (Linköping 1913), p. 335. Margareta Bergenström married Lorentz Rydström (1750-1826), bookkeeper at Mörtfors and later at Solstad copper mine in Misterhult Parish (Kalm.).